FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEAVERTON'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADIVSORY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 7TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY AWARD

- Stefanie Hilker and the Beaverton City Library to be Honored at February 1 City Council Meeting -

BEAVERTON, Oregon (January 26, 2010) – The City of Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission (BHRAC) announces the winners of the year's annual Diversity Award. Since 2003, BHRAC has recognized individuals, community groups, non-profit organizations and businesses in the area that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the pursuit of cultural diversity and advocacy of basic civil and human rights in our community. This year the Commission is proud to present the individual award to **Ms. Stefanie Hilker** and the organizational award to the **Beaverton City Library.**

Mayor Denny Doyle will present the awards on Monday, February 1 at the Beaverton City Council meeting. The meeting takes place at Beaverton City Hall (4755 SW Griffith Dr.) and begins at 6:30 p.m. A reception will take place prior to the meeting starting at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to join Mayor Doyle, City Council members and the Human Rights Advisory Committee to proudly honor the deserving recipients.

"BHRAC's Diversity Award honors those who help make Beaverton a better place for us all," said **Mayor Doyle.** "This year's recipients are a shining example of how we can all seek, in ways small and large, to make everyone, regardless of race and creed, feel valued in our community. I'm especially proud of our library staff for the work they do every day to foster an environment that is rich in diversity."

Stefanie Hilker
Selected as this year's individual winner, Stefanie Hilker was nominated by Dora Knevel. A chef with the Normandy Woods Retirement Center, Ms. Hilker is known to be a problem solver in the community and displays a style instilled with grace in dealing with residents and staff from all backgrounds.

Beaverton City Library
This year's organizational award goes to the **Beaverton City Library**. Nominated by patron Andrejka Coklyat, Beaverton's library was cited as a warm welcoming place for all people – young, old, rich, poor, physically or mentally challenged, Black, White, Latino, Asian and any sexual orientation. In addition to a catalog of resources covering Human Rights and Diversity issues, the Library "offers education events celebrating various cultures." Ms Coklyat also noted that the Beaverton Library Staff is diverse and "sets a good example for other organizations and businesses in the community."

"People do so much that fosters a climate of mutual respect for differences – we have a tendency to take tolerance and respect for others for granted. We believe it's important to acknowledge behavior that supports acceptance and cooperation and it is our privilege to honor these people who make the extra effort to embrace our diverse population," said Commission Chair Rob Solomon.

ABOUT THE BHRAC

The nine member Human Rights Advisory Commission was created by ordinance to the Beaverton City Code on April 12, 1993. The general purpose of the commission is to help the citizens and government in the city of Beaverton to achieve the goal of embracing and celebrating diversity, eliminating bigotry, and enhancing a sense of community. Learn more about the commission and the annual Diversity Awards at www.beavertonoregon.gov/HRAC.

ABOUT BEAVERTON

Beaverton was recently named the **safest city in the Northwest** for the third consecutive year. Among the other accolades, Beaverton was also lauded as one of the **Best Places to Raise Kids in America by BusinessWeek** magazine, one of the **Top 100 Best Places to Live in America by Money** magazine, an **All-America City finalist in 2005**, is recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as a **Green Power Communtiy** and is designated as a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** by the League of American Bicyclists.

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